

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Examiner: Group: Attorney Docket # 1068



Applicant(s) : HACHTEL, F., ET AL

Serial No. : 09/497,378

Filed : 02/02/00

For : CLAMPING ELEMENT

SIMULTANEOUS AMENDMENT

June 25, 2002

Honorable Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

SIRS:

Simultaneously with filing of the above identified application
please amend the same as follows:

In the Claims:

Cancel all claims without prejudice.

Substitute the claims attached hereto.

REMARKS:

This Amendment is submitted simultaneously with filing of the above identified application.

With the present Amendment applicant has amended the claims so as to eliminate their multiple dependency.

Consideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael J. Striker
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 27233

Claims:

1. A clamping element (10, 21) for fixing an article of clothing, especially a pair of pants, to a transverse support (27), which connects the ends of a clothes hanger (20) and has a middle reinforced region (15, 26) and two outer leaf spring elements (11, 12, 28, 29), characterized in that it is made entirely of plastic.

2. The clamping element (10, 21) of claim 1, characterized in that the leaf spring elements (11, 12, 28, 29) have a thickness that varies over their length.

3. The clamping element (10, 21) of claim 1 [or 2], characterized in that the leaf spring elements (11, 12, 28, 29) protrude into the reinforced middle region (15, 26).

4. The clamping element (10, 21) of [claim 1-3] claim 1, characterized in that the leaf spring elements (11, 12, 28, 29) have a curvature, so that at the connecting points (16, 17, 22, 23) to the clothes hanger (20) they have an angle of inclination of preferably 1 -35 relative to the horizontal.

5. The clamping element (10, 21) of [claim 1-4] claim 1, characterized in that on both ends it has a respective joint element (16, 17, 22, 23) for articulated connection to the clothes hanger (20).

6. The clamping element (10, 21) of [claim 1-5] claim 1, characterized in that it is made from plastic, preferably POM, polycarbonate, or impact resistance modified polystyrene.

7. The clamping element (10, 21) of [claim 1-5] claim 1, characterized in that it is made of a glass fiber reinforced plastic, such as POM-GF.

8. The clamping element (10, 21) of [claim 1-5] claim 1, characterized in that it is made of an amorphous plastic.

9. The clamping element (10, 21) of [claim 1-8] claim 1, characterized in that it is made in a single operation.

10. The clamping element (10, 21) of [claim 1-9] claim 1, characterized in that the reinforced middle region (15, 26) and the leaf spring elements (11, 12) are embodied as a one-piece injection-molded part.

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Claims:

1. A clamping element (10, 21) for fixing an article of clothing, especially a pair of pants, to a transverse support (27), which connects the ends of a clothes hanger (20) and has a middle reinforced region (15, 26) and two outer leaf spring elements (11, 12, 28, 29), characterized in that it is made entirely of plastic.

2. The clamping element (10, 21) of claim 1, characterized in that the leaf spring elements (11, 12, 28, 29) have a thickness that varies over their length.

3. The clamping element (10, 21) of claim 1, characterized in that the leaf spring elements (11, 12, 28, 29) protrude into the reinforced middle region (15, 26).

4. The clamping element (10, 21) of claim 1, characterized in that the leaf spring elements (11, 12, 28, 29) have a curvature, so that at the connecting points (16, 17, 22, 23) to the clothes hanger (20) they have an angle of inclination of preferably 1 -35 relative to the horizontal.

5. The clamping element (10, 21) of claim 1, characterized in that on both ends it has a respective joint element (16, 17, 22, 23) for articulated connection to the clothes hanger (20).

6. The clamping element (10, 21) of claim 1, characterized in that it is made from plastic, preferably POM, polycarbonate, or impact resistance modified polystyrene.

7. The clamping element (10, 21) of claim 1, characterized in that it is made of a glass fiber reinforced plastic, such as POM-GF.

5 8. The clamping element (10, 21) of claim 1, characterized in that it is made of an amorphous plastic.

9. The clamping element (10, 21) of claim 1, characterized in that it is made in a single operation.

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10. The clamping element (10, 21) of claim 1, characterized in that the reinforced middle region (15, 26) and the leaf spring elements (11, 12) are embodied as a one-piece injection-molded part.

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